

CLAIMS:

1. An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a first receiver operable to receive settlement information for use in accounting settlement from another information processing apparatus;

a data generator operable to generate identification data for identifying a user of content upon receipt of said settlement information, said identification data including said settlement information; and

a transmitter operable to transmit said identification data to said another information processing apparatus.

2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said identification data is made up of an ID and a password, one of said ID and said password including said settlement information.

3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a recorder operable to record said identification data;

a second receiver operable to receive said identification data;

a comparing unit operable to compare said identification data recorded by said recorder with said identification data received by said second receiver to produce a comparison result; and

a requesting unit operable to request a key providing apparatus to provide a key for decrypting said content to said another information processing apparatus based on said comparison result.

4. A method for processing information in an information processing apparatus, comprising:

receiving settlement information for use in accounting settlement from another information processing apparatus;

generating identification data for identifying a user of content upon receipt of said settlement information, said identification data including said settlement

information; and

transmitting said identification data to said another information processing apparatus.

5. A program storage medium storing a computer-readable program for processing information in an information processing apparatus, said computer-readable program comprising:

receiving settlement information for use in accounting settlement from another information processing apparatus;

generating identification data for identifying a user of content upon receipt of said settlement information, said identification data including said settlement information; and

transmitting said identification data to said another information processing apparatus.

6. An information processing apparatus storing settlement information in correspondence with user identification data, comprising:

a first receiver operable to receive said settlement information from a first information processor;

a decision unit operable to determine whether said received settlement information is recorded in said information processing apparatus;

a data generator operable to generate said user identification data corresponding to said received settlement information if said received settlement information is not recorded in said information processing apparatus;

a recorder operable to record said received settlement information in correspondence with said user identification data if said user identification data has been generated;

a first transmitter operable to transmit said generated user identification data to said first information processor if said user identification data has been generated;

a first retrieving unit operable to retrieve said user identification data recorded in correspondence with said settlement information if said received settlement information is recorded in said information processing

apparatus; and

a second transmitter operable to transmit said retrieved user identification data to said first information processor if said user identification data has been read.

7. The information processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a second receiver operable to receive said user identification data from a second information processor;

a second retrieving unit operable to retrieve said settlement information recorded in correspondence with said user identification data received by said second receiver; and

a third transmitter operable to transmit said retrieved settlement information to said second information processor.

8. The information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said user identification data is used to identify a user who uses digital content.

9. A method for processing information in an information processing apparatus storing settlement information in correspondence with user identification data, comprising:

receiving said settlement information from another information processing apparatus;

determining whether said received settlement information is recorded in said information processing apparatus;

generating said user identification data corresponding to said received settlement information if said received settlement information is not recorded in said information processing apparatus;

recording said received settlement information in correspondence with said user identification data if said user identification data has been generated;

transmitting said generated user identification data to said another information processing apparatus if said user identification data has been generated;

retrieving said user identification data recorded in correspondence with said settlement information if

said received settlement information is recorded in said information processing apparatus; and

transmitting said retrieved user identification data to said another information processing apparatus if said user identification data has been read.

10. A program storage medium storing a computer-readable program for processing information in an information processing apparatus storing settlement information in correspondence with user identification data, said computer-readable program comprising:

receiving said settlement information from another information processing apparatus;

determining whether said received settlement information is recorded in said information processing apparatus;

generating said user identification data corresponding to said received settlement information if said received settlement information is not recorded in said information processing apparatus;

recording said received settlement information in correspondence with said user identification data if said user identification data has been generated;

transmitting said generated user identification data to said another information processing apparatus if said user identification data has been generated;

retrieving said user identification data recorded in correspondence with said settlement information if said received settlement information is recorded in said information processing apparatus; and

transmitting said retrieved user identification data to said another information processing apparatus if said user identification data has been read.